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"Where a specific duty is

assigned by law, and indi-

vidual rights depend upon

performance of that duty, it

seems equally clear, that the

individual who considers

himself injured, has a right

to resort to the laws of his

country for a remedy."

Chief Justice John Marshall
Marbury v. Madison (1803)

For more information about

Crime Victim Rights in Illinois, contact:

Office of the Illinois Attorney General

Crime Victim Services Division

100 W. Randolph Street, 13th Floor

Chicago, IL, 60601

312-814-2581 (Phone)

312-814-7105 (Fax)

Crime Victims Assistance Line

1-800-228-3368 (Voice/TTY)

Call the Crime Victims Assistance Line to

schedule victim advocacy training sessions

offered by the Illinois Attorney General's

Crime Victims Division.

www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov

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Crime Victim Rights in Illinois



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Crime Affects All Of Us

Crime has a devastating impact on victims and survivors, neighborhoods, communities, and our society as a whole. Crime creates a sense of indignity through the realization that any of us at any time can be victimized by violence.

The typical reaction to crime is the desire to capture and punish the criminal. This reaction ignores the impact of the crime on the victim. Providing support and assistance to victims of crime is a critical component of serving justice.

Illinois has made great strides in serving victims of crime and continues to work to meet the needs of all survivors. In Illinois, crime victims have Constitutional and statutory rights.

Under Illinois law, "A statement and explanation of the rights of crime victims...shall be given to a crime victim at the initial contact with the criminal justice system by the appropriate authorities and shall be conspicuously posted in all court facilities." (725 ILCS 120/4(b)).

Illinois Crime Victims Bill Of Rights

- The right to be treated with fairness and respect throughout the criminal justice process.
- The right to notification of court proceedings.
- The right to communicate with the prosecution.
- The right to make a statement to the court at sentencing.
- The right to information about the conviction, sentence, imprisonment, and release of the accused.
- The right to be reasonably protected from the accused throughout the criminal justice proceedings.
- The right to timely disposition of the case following the arrest of the accused.
- The right to be present at the trial and all other court proceedings, unless the victim is expected to testify and the court determines that the victim's testimony will be affected if the victim hears other testimony at the trial.
- The right to have present at all court proceedings, subject to the rules of evidence, an advocate or other support person of the victim's choice.
- The right to restitution.

Know Your Rights

The law requires that many rights of crime victims be requested in writing. These rights include:

- Notice of changes in police investigation status;
- Notification of the preliminary hearing, bond hearing, and sentencing;
- Notice of release on bond or recognizance;
- Consultation with prosecution before plea negotiation and consideration of a Victim Impact Statement;
- Notice of disposition of a criminal case, appeal, or other post-conviction hearings;
- Nontechnical explanation of a plea, verdict, or adjudication;
- Distribution of a Victim Impact Statement to the Prisoner Review Board; and
- Notice of an offender's release, discharge, or periodic imprisonment.

Working to respect and ensure a crime victim's rights under the law is one way to restore his or her sense of safety and security in the community.

Justice for one person who is hurt by crime is justice for all. Just as violence negatively impacts our communities, working to restore victims sense of safety, security, and stability affects our communities positively.